

DECISION NOTICE
BAUM SHOOTING PRESERVE
PREPARED BY MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
SEPTEMBER 21, 1998

PROPOSAL

On July 21, 1998, Darrell Baum made written application to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for an upland bird shooting preserve to be located on 254 acres his property approximately 20 miles southeast of Helena, Montana and 4 miles west-northwest of Winston, Montana. The property is located in **Broadwater County**, Section 3, T8N R1W, SE 1/4, E 1/2, SW 1/4, SE 1/4 NE 1/4, SW 1/4 NE 1/4. The proposal is to release artificially propagated pheasants, chukar partridges and quail daily prior to the arrival of hunters. A minimum of 100 birds annually will be stocked. 100 pheasants, 50 chukars and 50 quail.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (MEPA) PROCESS

The proposal was outlined in an Environmental Assessment (EA) by FWP in compliance the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). FWP is required to assess the impacts to the human and natural environment. The EA was available for public comment from August 12 through September 11, 1998. A public notice of the application appeared in both the Helena Independent Record and the Townsend Star newspaper's Legal Notices section.

ISSUES RAISED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Checklist EA listed the issues. No major impacts are known to occur if the permit is issued. As a point of clarification under the section, *Other Groups Which May Have Overlapping Jurisdiction*, an important permit is *required* for any birds shipped in from out of state.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

One written and one verbal (telephone) comment were received during the comment period. Those comments are summarized as follows:

1. **Comment:**

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stated that cultural surveys have not been done in the area since 1950 at which time a number of historic/cultural sites were identified. The SHPO expressed concern that any new fence or road building associated with the proposed shooting preserve has the potential to adversely impact sites which have not been identified.

Department Response:

The applicant plans on using existing roads and fences in the proposed preserve and does not plan on any activities which may negatively affect potential sites through surface disturbance.

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2. Comment:

The landowner has been a cooperator in the Block Management Program and concerns were expressed in regards to having a commercial hunting operation adjacent to and on the same property as a BMA.

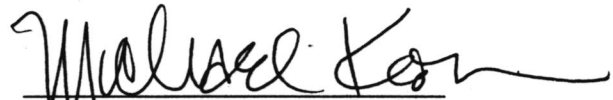
Department Response:

The issue of the applicant's participation in Block Management in relation to the commercial shooting preserve on his property is not within the scope of this review. However, the effect of this operation on the established Block Management Area and resultant public hunting opportunities will be evaluated as a consideration for participation in Block Management in 1999.

DECISION

Utilizing the EA and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP which addresses the concerns and issues identified for this proposed shooting preserve.

Based on the findings of the EA that established no significant impacts, an EIS is not required and it is my decision to approve the permit for the Baum Shooting Preserve.



Michael Korn
Helena Area Coordinator
Helena, MT 59620
September 21, 1998